

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated April 28, 2006, which was made final, claims 18-34 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or surrender of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-17 and 35-51 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

II. ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 and 35-51 were considered allowed by the Examiner.

The Applicants' thank the Examiner and formally acknowledge the allowable nature of claims 1-17 and 35-51. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled claims 18-34 without prejudice, waiver, or subject matter contained therein, such that claims 18-34 can be better presented in a continuation application. These cancellations were made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and were not required for patentability of claims 1-17 and 35-51, nor were the cancellations required to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

III. REJECTIONS

In paragraph (4) of the Office Action, claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In paragraphs (5)-(6) of the Office Action, claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Reed, U.S. Patent 3,774,215 or Rich et al., U.S. Patent 5,636,123. In paragraphs (7)-(8) of the Office Action, claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Fleming et al., U.S. Patent 5,748,891 in view of Reed.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. However, in light of the cancellation of the claims at issue, and in order to expedite prosecution of the remaining claims which stand allowed, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot.

IV. CONCLUSION

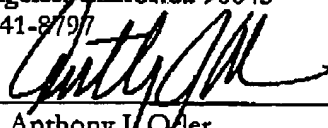
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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